

Remarks/Arguments:

This Amendment and Request For Continued Examination is being filed in response to the Office Action of September 3, 2004. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application and have been rejected. Furthermore, the drawings filed on March 18, 2002 have been objected to by the Examiner. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of the application in view of the amendments and remarks herein is respectfully requested. Applicant believes that the present amendments and remarks place the application in a condition for allowance. Allowance of the claims is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended to include the following phrases “a C-shaped profile which can be bent open at a separation plane and”, see, for example, page 3, lines 17-18, “substantially mutually parallel bearing”, see, for example, page 4, line 14, and “which are oriented in co-linear relationship with each other forming the traverse limbs of the bearing unit which receiving means are”, see, for example, page 4, lines 17 and 23. Attention is also directed to FIGS 1-2 which clearly show the C-shaped profile of the bearing device as configured to surround the control element. In addition, the claim recites “first and second substantially mutually parallel bearing receiving means at a location removed from said separation plane.” This can also be readily seen in FIG. 4 which illustrates the bend location 14a and the specification at page 5, lines 26-33 which recites that the connecting element 14 is slightly bent at a bend location 14a which is

disposed approximately centrally. As can be seen, the central disposition amounts to a separation plane that is removed from the substantially mutually bearing receiving means.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct some clerical errors by including the phrase “said bearing unit has an inside wall and”, see, for example, Fig. 5.

Claims 3, 6 and 8 have been deleted.

Applicant believes that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) because they fail to show the opening (15d) as described in the specification. As claim 6 has been cancelled the Applicant believes that the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al U.S. Patent No. 5,812,280 (herein after referred to “Takahashi”).

Takahashi appears to disclose a C-shaped bearing unit, which can be opened. Whereas in Takahashi the axis of the “C” is coaxial with the rotational axis of the control element, the axis of the “C” of the presently claimed invention is perpendicular to the rotational axis of the control element.

Takahashi has two independent bearing elements which can independently be opened and closed around the bearing journals of the control element. By contrast the presently claimed bearing unit has two coaxial bearing receiving elements which cannot

be opened and closed. Furthermore, the presently claimed bearing unit surrounds the control element. Takahashi's bearing unit, on the other hand, surrounds the rotational axis of the control element and not the control element as in the present invention.

The "C" shaped element of Takahashi refers to one single bearing receiving element, whereas the "C" shaped element refers to the bearing unit have two bearing receiving elements in the presently claimed invention. The present claims require that the "bearing device for rotatably receiving a control element in media-carrying conduits of an internal combustion engine comprising a bearing unit comprising ... first and second substantially mutually parallel bearing receiving means at a location removed from said separation plane and which are oriented in co-linear relationship with each other forming the traverse limbs of the bearing unit". Thus a single bearing device has more than one bearing receiving means. The "C" shaped elements of Takahashi disclose only a single bearing receiving element in each bearing receiving device.

Furthermore, the presently claimed invention provides bearing journals at both sides of the control element that are inserted into the closed bearing unit. According to Takahashi, both bearing receiving units must be opened for inserting the bearing journals of the control element.

Having overcome all of the outstanding rejections, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

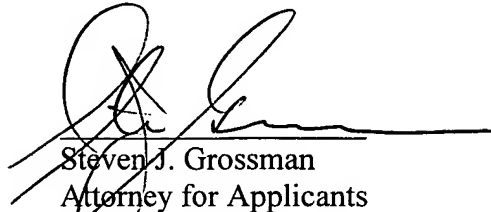
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Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Grossman", written over a horizontal line.

Steven J. Grossman

Attorney for Applicants

Reg. No. 35,001

Grossman, Tucker, Perreault & Pfleger

55 South Commercial Street

Manchester, New Hampshire 03101

Ph. 603.668.6560